

SEP 23 1999

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In

Subject: Comments on Bay-Delta Draft Plan
To: lsnow@water.ca.gov
CC: Shapas1280@aol.com, miller@caltrout.org

36 Lisa Court
Alamo, CA 94507
September 23, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Executive Director Snow:

I understand that your draft plan for the Bay-Delta program involves the construction of 12 new dams and impoundments. I'm opposed to such a plan, and urge your agency to consider less expensive and better alternatives including groundwater storage and water conservation. When the City of Los Angeles can do without water diversion from Mono Lake and still grow, I know that other measures can work.

California has more than enough dams, the construction of which have directly resulted in catastrophic declines in our steelhead, salmon, and native trout populations. In this age of enlightened resource management, we need to be tearing old dams down and finding better ways (such as the forces of a free market system) to supply water to major users such as agribusiness. As a taxpayer, I am vehemently opposed to subsidizing any new or expanded dams, reservoirs, or canals, and urge you to not commit to any such new construction during CALFED's "Stage 1".

I implore CALFED to seek new efficiencies in its efforts to provide water where it's needed. One of those needs is to guarantee sufficient fresh water flows in rivers to always protect critical fisheries. It's also critical to build into your plan a means to prevent water pollution at its source, and to devise strict conservation measures for land use around our rivers.

Please enter these comments into the formal Draft Programmatic EIR and Statement, and kindly write back to me to let me know where you stand on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Ted Shapas